

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, MX
SUBJ: CASE REVIEW OF ALL AMERICAN PRISONERS MEXICO:
(WHITE, PAUL

REF: STATE 194199

1. DENIAL OF CONSULAR ACCESS: PER STARK MATERIAL, WHITE ALLEGES HE WAS NOT ALLOWED TO CALL CONOFF WHEN HE REQUESTED TO CONTACT EMBASSY AT TIME OF ARREST, FEBRUARY 27, 1974. ALLEGES RECEIVED EMBASSY LIST OF LAWYERS SIX WEEKS LATER. MOTHER CLAIMED EMBASSY NEVER NOTIFIED HER. WHITE ANSWERED IN NEGATIVE QUESTION IN STARK MATERIAL IF ASKED FOR RELATIVES TO BE NOTIFIED. PER POST FILES, CONOFF RECEIVED CALL FROM MOTHER IN U.S. 2/28/75 ONE DAY AFTER ARREST. SHE HAD BEEN NOTIFIED BY LAWYER WHO ATTEMPTED TO REPRESENT HER SON. CONOFF WROTE LETTER 3/4/75 TO WHITE INNCLUDING LIST OF ATTORNEYS AND INFORMATION ON PROTECTION FACILITIES AND MEXICAN DRUG LAWS. VISITED BY CONOFF 4/18/74/18/74 AT WHIC TIME HE DID INDICATE THAT HE HAD REQUESTED EMBASSY BE NOTIFIED AT TIME OF ARREST.

2. MISTREATMENT AT TIME OF ARREST/FORCED CONFESSION: PER STARK MATERIAL WHITE ALLEGES THAT AT TIME OF ARREST WAS TRIPPED, BEATEN AND SHOCKED WITH ELECTRIC PROD FOR HALF AN HOUR RESULTING IN BURNS AND BRUISES. HE WAS TOLD IF DID NOT COOPERATE WOULD BE BEATEN AND THEN FORCED TO SIGN CONFESSION IN SPANISH WITH NO INTER- PRETER PRESENT. PER POST FILES NO MENTION EVER MADE UNCLASSIFIED

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OF ALLEGATIONS TO CONOFF. POST WILL DISCUSS ALLEGATION

WITH WHITE BUT POSSIBLE ACTION DOUBTFUL BY NOW.

3. POSSIBLE EXTORTION BY ATTORNEY: WHITE STATES PER STARK MATERIAL THA HE PAID 10,000 TO LIC. DR. PALACIOS BERMUDEZ, WHO HAS NOT OBTAINED SENTENCE WHICH HE SAID HE COULD OBTAIN. PER POST FILES, SAME ALLEGATIONS IS CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST LETTERS WRITTEN BY FAMILY. INDICATED PALACIOS PROMISED RELEASE AND DEPORTATION IN SIX MONTHS. POST FIELS INDICATE LAWYER IS STILL WORKING ON APPEAL OF CASE, AND TOLD CONOFF 6/6/75 THAT WHITE NOT COOPERATING ON APPEAL. AS LAWYER PERFORMED LEGAL SERVICES AND APPEAL STILL PENDING. EMBASSY DOES NOT CONSIDER WHITE TO BE VICTIM OF EXTORTION.

4. CONSULAR VISITATION: PER STARK MATERIAL, WHITE ALLEGES HAS BEEN VISITED TWICE WHILE IN PRISON. PER POST FILES, WHITE HAS RARELY APPEARED DURING CONOFF'S REGULARLY SCHEDULED VISITS, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE HE HAS HAD NOTHING TO SAY. HE SEEMS TO COME OUT FOR INTERVIEW WHEN HE NEEDS SOMETHING.

5. PROLONGED DETENTION: PER STARK MATERIAL, WHITE'S MOTHER INDICATED SON HAD NOT BEEN SENTENCED ALTHOUGH DATE OF STATEMENT IS UNCLEAR. PER POST FILES, WHITE SENTENCED TO SIX AND ONE HALF YEARS ON 1/30/75, THREE DAYS OVER ONE YEAR AFTER HIS ARREST.

6. EXTORTION WHILE IN PRISON: WHITE ALLEGES PER STARK MATERIAL THAT HE PAID \$1500 WHILE IN PRISON FOR CELL AND PROTECTION FROM AN EIGHTEEN HOUR PER DAY WORK DETAIL. THIS IS COMMON ABUSE WHICH HIGHER MEXICAN AUTHORITIES APPEAR UNWILLING OR POWERLESS TO CORRECT, DESPITE EMABASSY PROTEST.

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